

a reminder to us all that the officers who don a badge and patrol our streets are heroes and true public servants who risk injury and death to provide greater safety and protection for us all.

In recognition of the efforts of these officers, I want to express my continued and strong support for the effective anti-crime COPS Program which has put more officers on our streets—more than 150 in my district alone. Effective programs like this which support our peace officers and reduce crime are true living memorials for our fallen heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

CENTENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE  
AOA

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 16, 1997*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, thousands of doctors of optometry will be convening in St. Louis, Missouri on June 11–15, 1997 to celebrate the Centennial Congress of the American Optometric Association [AOA]. During the proceedings of this annual convention, Dr. Michael D. Jones of Athens, TN, will be sworn in for the 1997–98 term as the association's 76th president. I would like to take a few moments to congratulate Dr. Jones on achieving this high honor and to commend him for his professional and civic achievement.

Dr. Jones is a graduate of Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, and has practiced optometry in Athens since 1971. He is a past president of the Tennessee Optometric Association and the Hiwassee Optometric Society. In 1992, Dr. Jones was honored as Tennessee's Optometrist of the Year. And, in 1993, he was named Optometrist of the South.

In Athens, Dr. Jones has served as president of the Kiwanis Club, treasurer of the Jaycees, and on the boards of the United Fund and the YMCA. He also founded the community's Explorer Scouts program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Jones was first elected to the AOA's board of trustees in 1992 and has served the board in a number of capacities. The AOA is the professional society for the Nation's 31,000 optometrists. As president, Dr. Jones will lead the association in working to improve vision care in the United States.

Dr. Mike Jones has distinguished himself as an outstanding leader. I join his many friends and colleagues in offering him best wishes for a successful term as president of the AOA.

THE TRAGEDY OF ALCOHOL-RELATED DEATHS ON OUR NATION'S HIGHWAYS

SPEECH OF

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very tragic situation that afflicts one person every 30 seconds—

this problem is drinking and driving. This week Mothers Against Drunk Driving is sponsoring a National Youth Summit on Underage Drinking in the hopes of educating our young people about how dangerous and destructive driving is under the influence—and let me remind everyone this danger is not just to oneself, but to anyone else who may be on the road. I commend the organizers and participants in the summit for taking steps to educate Americans on the perils of driving under the influence.

Last week, I was watching the news and I saw the parents of a young college girl discussing the death of their daughter due to a drunk driving accident. This young, bright girl, with all of her hopes and dreams just starting to take form, lost these dreams when a drunk driver hit her car and in an instant everything was gone.

Friends, this is a serious problem and we need to do more to educate everyone—teens and adults alike—on the consequences of drinking and driving. Let me share some startling statistics not commonly discussed. In 1994, 40.8 percent of all traffic fatalities were accounted for by drunk driving accidents, and that number has risen since then. And do not think this could not happen to you because two of every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related accident in their lifetime. I am the father of five healthy beautiful children and I can not bear to think that unless we work to stop this, two of my five children will be affected by a drinking and driving accident.

It is crucial that we get the word out and take preventive measures to assure these senseless deaths stop. In my home State of Oklahoma, the State legislature just passed a law stipulating any underage driver caught drinking automatically loses his license until he reaches 21. I am glad Oklahoma is taking steps to prevent wreckless behavior, but I want to stress, that we need to educate more than our kids because this is everyone's responsibility and problem.

There is a powerful poem written through the eyes of a young girl who didn't drink and drive because her mom had said it was dangerous, and the pride she took in obeying her mother. But when she got in her car to go home she was killed by a drunk driver. The last line reads, "I have one last question, Mom, before I say good bye. I didn't drink and drive, so why am I the one to die?"

This question goes straight to the heart of the matter, and I sincerely hope if someone is going to drink they would have enough respect for the priceless gift of human life, not to get in a car and drive. This is a problem that affects everyone and I hope we would all take responsibility and work to end these tragic accidents that turn human lives, hopes, and dreams into statistics.

Congratulations to the youth who are participating in the underage drinking summit for making a commitment to be responsible and to protect other lives as well. We need your help in raising the awareness about the dangers of drunk driving.

THE MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT COMPLETION ACT

**HON. LINDA SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 16, 1997*

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, under the leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following:

Mr. Speaker, on the morning of May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted in an awesome display of nature's power. The 250 miles per hour avalanche and high winds destroyed almost 150 square miles of forest and sent a plume of ash toward eastern Washington like a slow-moving tidal wave.

In 1982, Congress enacted legislation establishing the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, protecting the 110,000 acres around the volcano for recreation, education, and research. The monument preserves this extraordinary event of natural history for future generations, and it also provides a living classroom where young and old alike can learn about nature's slow but steady process of healing.

Since the monument was created, new camping and picnic areas, trails, and visitor centers have been added as the number of visitors keeps climbing. Every year thousands of people trek to the rim of the crater to see firsthand a live volcano.

To make sure that the monument is protected now and for future generations, the 1982 act required the Federal Government to consolidate all the land and interests within its boundaries. The exchange of the surface rights was promptly accomplished. Unfortunately, however, the Federal Government has yet to finish obtaining all the privately owned mineral and geothermal resources within the monument boundaries. Even though the 1982 act mandated that all the private property be acquired by 1983, some still remains 15 years later.

Today, I am introducing the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act. This measure fulfills the requirements of the original 1982 act by establishing a process for the monument to obtain the remaining private geothermal and mineral rights. A companion measure is pending in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the work begun in 1982 needs to be finished. The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act will allow us to complete that work, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA STATILE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 16, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Virginia Statile, a woman whose dedication to and compassion for the sick, elderly, and disabled of Hudson County is unmatched. She has given over 33 years of service to the community as executive director of the Visiting Homemaker Service of Hudson County.

Mrs. Statile began working as Visiting Homemaker's executive secretary on a part-